

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Injector body 78 also may optionally include a back-flow valve 88 positioned between the shut-off valve and the blowing agent port to prevent polymeric material in the extruder from flowing upwards into the shut-off valve. The check valve is preferably positioned as close as feasible to the polymer and the shut-off valve is preferably positioned as close as feasible to the check valve. This arrangement is included in the definition of “essentially adjacent” the barrel port. As illustrated, the back-flow valve includes a ball check 90 which is upwardly biased and held in position by a spring 92; though other valve constructions may also be used. Typically, when the shut-off or two-way valve is open, the pressure of the blowing agent forces the ball check 90 away from a sealing surface 92 94 to provide a pathway for blowing agent flow to port 16. However, in some cases, such as when the valve is closed or when the pressure of polymeric material in the polymer processing space in the vicinity of the blowing agent port exceeds the blowing agent injection pressure (e.g. during rapid pressure spikes in the extruder), the ball check may be forced against sealing surface 92 94 to create a seal. The seal prevents molten polymeric material from flowing through and, potentially, solidifying within the shut-off or two-way valve which may impede its operation, for example, by preventing the shut-off valve from closing.